

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment.

Claim 1 is rejected as being unpatentable over Gardner (US Patent No. 5,885,874) in view of Mizutani (US Patent No. 4,661,833). While Applicant does not concede the unpatentability of Claim 1, Applicant nevertheless has cancelled Claim 1, in order to achieve allowance of the application. Therefore, the rejection of Claim 1 is moot.

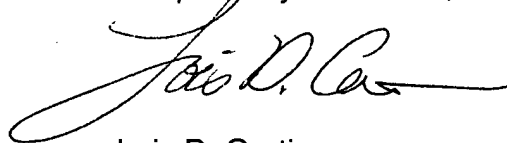
Claims 2-4 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended Claim 2 to include all the limitations of Claim 1, from which it previously depended. Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 2. Therefore, the amendment to Claim 2 also overcomes the objections to Claims 3 and 4.

Applicant requests the favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

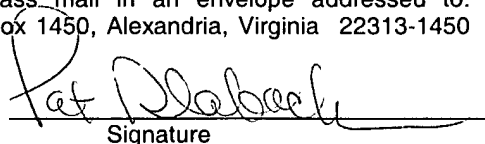
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 5, 2005.

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